— Theoretical Computer Science; Natural Language Processing; Computer Systems

— Cellular and Molecular Biology/ Genetics; Genetic Engineering; Biotechnology including applications to Medicine and Agronomy

— Medical Sciences : Epidemiology; Immunology; Virology; Development of new vaccines and new drugs; Bio-medical Engineering (e.g. design of artificial aids)

— Chemistry of natural products with special reference to biologically active compounds; Agro-chemicals

— Catalysis - Science and Engineering;

— Liquid Interface Science

— Materials Science and Engineering; Advanced Ceramics, Composites; Polymers

— Rare Earths

— Astro-Physics and Radio Astronomy

— Geophysics; Geosphere-Biosphere

— Remote Sensing

— Water Resources

— Semi - Conductor Physics; Opto-electronics; Micro-electronics

— Separation Science and Technology.

(c) Two projects have been successfully completed, viz;

— Numerical modelling of the Ocean-atmosphere system with special reference to monsoons.

— Segregation and surface properties of Pt-based alloys : experimental and theoretical approach.

**Funds allotted to the Intitute of Advanced Research in Science and Technology in Assam**

1789. SHRI BHADRESWAR GOHAIN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) what is the present position of the proposed Institute of Advance Research in Science and Technology in Assam under the Assam Accord;

(b) whether any fund has been allocated by Government to the Institute for the current year;

(c) whether the Institute would be established under the Central Government; and

(d) if not so, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY, DEPARTMENT OF ELECTRONICS AND DEPARTMENT OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. R. KUMARAMANGALAM) : (a) to (d) An Inter-Ministerial meeting was held on 4-11-1991 involving verious scientific agencies of the Centre, representatives of Planning Commission, Home Ministry as well as Government of Assam. It was decided that the Science and Technology activities in Assam are to be enhanced through the existing Institute for Advanced Study in Science and Technology, and for this the resources required should be projected by the Assam Government appropriately in their eighth Five Year Plan, for consideration by the Planning Commission.

Assam Government is expected to take necessary follow up action in consultation with the Planning Commission on the decision taken in the Inter-Ministerial meeting.

**Women Engineers in the Country**

1790. SHRI SHANTI TYAGI : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the number of women engineers has gone up tenfolds during the last 15 years;

(b) if so, the number of women engineers in the country in the beginning of the year 1992;

(c) whether a large number of women engineers remain unemployed and male engineers are given perference over women engineers by the employers; and